GUIDE TO THE E16 SLAVIC PEOPLES FILE

The E16 Slavic Peoples file includes general data on the Slavic peoples, languages, and cultures. Slavic speakers currently comprise the largest linguistic group in Europe, numbering over 250 million, and all but a few border groups live in a state with a Slavic majority. Those states are Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, and the USSR. Although the Slavic peoples have a common linguistic and racial heritage, they are currently divided into several political, geographical, and linguistic units. There are three major geographic/linguistic groups - Eastern, Western, and Southern - which are in turn divided into anywhere from seven to thirteen subgroups depending upon whether the divisions are based on political, ethnic, or linguistic criteria. The Eastern group which consists of Russian peoples is the most populous; it accounts for almost three-quarters of the Slavic speakers or 180 million people. The group is divided into 3 linguistic units: Great Russian, which is spoken by inhabitants of central European Russia and in a great part of Siberia; Belorussian or White Russian, which is spoken in an area centering on Minsk; and Ukrainian or Little Russian, which is spoken on the steppes north of the Black Sea from the western frontier to the Kuban and Don rivers. The Western group includes the Poles, the Czechs, Moravians, and Slovaks who together comprise the Czechoslovakian nation, the Kashubs who live in Poland and the Lusatian Sorbs or Wends who live in East Germany. According to 9: Jakobson, this group represents six separate literary standards - Polish, Kashubian, Lower and Upper Lusatian, Czech, and Slovak-and accounts for nearly 50 million Slavic speakers. The Southern group, which accounts for approximately 25 million people, consists of Slovenes who live in northern Yugoslavia, Serbs, and Croatians who together make up most of the population of Yugoslavia, Bulgarians, and Macedonians who live in Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, and Greece.

This group represents four literary standards - Slovene, Serbocroatian, Macedonian, and Bulgarian. All Slavic languages belong to the Indo-European family.

The Slavs, who currently occupy the Eastern section of the European continent and part of Asia, have not always occupied this territory but have gone through numerous migrations. 4: Cross suggests that before the Slavs dispersed and differentiated, they inhabited an irregular oblong area northeast of the Carpathians extending eastward from the basin of the middle Vistula to the course of the Dnieper north and south of Kiev. The dispersion and dissolution of the Slavic peoples probably occurred as a result of differing geographic and foreign influences. As a buffer zone between Europe and Asia, the Slavs were subject to Eastern and Western culture. Consequently, under Eastern influence the Russians, Serbs, Macedonians, and Bulgarians accepted the Orthodox Church and use the Cyrillic alphabet, while under Western influence Poles, Czechs, Slovaks, Lusatians, Slovenes, and Croatians accepted the Catholic church and use the Latin alphabet. Despite these differences there have been periodic resurgences of a Panslavic movement. The history of this movement is thoroughly discussed in 3 of the 7 sources in this file.

All seven of the sources in the E16 file are historical in nature. The source numbers range from 1 to 10 but there are no sources 2, 3, or 8. 1: Niederle was written by a Czech ethnologist and was translated first from Czech to French and then from French to English. The author divides the Slavs into 9 groups and gives an extensive historical, statistical, and demographic summary of each group along with some brief ethnographic information. 4: Cross is an historical survey of the Slavs from their origins to the beginning of World War II. Particular emphasis is placed on the political and cultural relations among the various Slavic groups and between the Slavs and Germans with an eye toward providing

an historical basis for modern international conflicts. Sources 5: Thomson, 6: Mousset and 7: Lednicki all provide an historical account of the Panslavic movement. 5: Thomson is a brief article surveying Panslavism from 1848-1948. 6: Mousset is a more extensive analysis of the subject, translated from the French. The author traces the development of the movement from its inception in the early 17th century and places it within the framework of international relations. 7: Lednicki looks at the Panslavic movement from the viewpoint of various Slavic peoples particularly from that of Russians and Poles and discusses the idealogies of specific Panslavists. 9: Jakobson is an historical survey of the thirteen Slavic languages and of Church Slavonic by an outstanding linguist and Slavicist. He discusses the development of their alphabets, phonologies and grammars and provides samples of each language. 10: French provides a survey of the Eastern Orthodox Church. Part I concentrates on the history while Part II discusses the architecture, interior decoration and furnishings of the churches and describes the rites of worship. The file was processed in 1955 and 1956. Since the file is concerned mainly with general political and historical information, the researcher is advised to consult the country and ethnic files for the various subgroups in order to obtain more specific information.]